

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 NEA-10

FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06

PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 /131 W
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R 071730Z JUL 75

FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4377
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON
USMISSION OECD PARIS

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: GATT, ETRD, PO

SUBJECT: GATT BOP CONSULTATIONS-PORTUGAL

REF: A. STATE 147608; B. GENEVA 4637; C. GENEVA 4166

1. DURING JULY 4 GATT BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS COMMITTEE SESSION, PORTUGAL MADE PRELIMINARY APPEARANCE AS DISCUSSED IN REFTELS. WE LET EC TAKE LEAD; EC SAID THE SURCHARGES AFFECTED THEIR INTERESTS AND HOPED PORTUGAL WOULD TAKE THIS INTO ACCOUNT. EC ASKED VARIOUS QUESTIONS ABOUT CRITERIA USED TO CLASSIFY GOODS IN LIST I OR II (L/4185, 18 JUNE 1975) WHETHER PORTUGAL CONTEMPLATING QR'S, WHETHER SURCHARGES EXPECTED EXTEND PAST DECEMBER, 1975, AND CRITERIA FOR EXEMPTING GOODS. U.S. THANKED PORTUGAL FOR PROMPT NOTIFICATION OF SURCHARGES AND ADDED THAT CRITERIA USED FOR EXEMPTING GOODW WOULD ALSO BE OF INTEREST TO US. CANADA ECHOED EC QUESTION ON TERMINAL DATE AND ASKED PROSPECTS FOR CHANGES IN SURCHARGE LISTS.

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2. PORTUGAL SAID 30 PERCENT CATEGORY (LIST II) IS BASICALLY FOR CONSUMER GOODS FOR INTERMEDIATE GOODS DESTINED FOR NON-ESSENTIAL PRODUCTION. LIST I (20 PERCENT CATEGORY) AND EXEMPTIONS ARE RESERVED FOR MORE ESSENTIAL GOODS. WHILE FORMAL DURATION IS TO DECEMBER 31, 1975, MEASURE EXPECTED TO REMAIN IN FORCE UNTIL "NECESSARY CHANGES IN PATTERN OF CONSUMPTION" HAVE BEEN COMPLETED. USE OF QR'S NOT ANTICIPATED, AT LEAST FOR NOW. PORTUGAL SAID EXEMPTIONS AFFECTED MOST CAPITAL GOODS AND RAW MATERIALS, ESPECIALLY GOODS NEEDED TO SUPPLY STEEL, CANNED FISH, PETROLEUM ACTIVITIES, TOURIST ACTIVITIES, SHIPYARDS, AIR TRANSPORT.

3. CHAIRMAN NOTED IMF CONSULTATIONS AND REPORT CAN BE COMPLETED BY 20 JULY AND PROPOSED THE FULL BOP EXAMINATION FOR END JULY. PORTUGAL INDICATED THEY HAD NO OBJECTION, SUBJECT TO WISH OF THEIR CAPITAL, AND EXPECTED HAVE THEIR FULL BOP SUBMISSION READY IN TIME. U.S. SAID WE FLEXIBLE, THAT PORTUGUESE WISH WAS DETERMINING FACTOR. MEETING AGREED FOR JULY 28.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: RECOMMEND DEPT. OBTAIN IMF REPORT DIRECTLY FROM IMF WASHINGTON AS SOON AS AVAILABLE (POSSIBLY EARLIER THAN JULY 20) AND ALSO USE L/4185 AS BASIS FOR PREPARING INSTRUCTIONS FOR JULY 28 MEETING. IF ADDITIONAL BOP-SERIES SUBMISSION FROM PORTUGAL IS AVAILABLE SUFFICIENTLY IN ADVANCE OF JULY 28, WE WILL FORWARD. DALE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMITTEE MEETINGS, BALANCE OF PAYMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975GENEVA05261
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750234-0304
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750782/aaaacuxk.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 147608, 75 GENEVA 4637, 75 GENEVA 4166
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <19 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GATT BOP CONSULTATIONS-PORTUGAL
TAGS: ETRD, PO, GATT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006